

Message Text

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO FPA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 13105

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: DISCUSSION WITH PANSA

REF: (A) STATE 307035 DTG 240221ZDEC77, (B) USDELMC 973/77
DTG 071832ZDEC77, NOTAL, (C) USNATO 12881 DTG 201939ZDEC77,
(D) USNATO 13090 DTG 271813ZDEC77, (E) STATE 269647 DTG
110043ZNOV77, NOTAL, (F) USNATO 12758 DTG 161225ZDEC77,
NOTAL.

SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 27, MISSION DEFENSE ADVISOR CALLED ON
EWG CHAIRMAN PANSA TO DISCUSS: (A) REPORTS OF TASK FORCES'
DIFFICULTIES IN LAYING OUT THEIR LTDP PROPOSALS IN PROGRAM-
MATIC DETAIL, (B) THE STATUS OF THE FORMAT FOR TF FINAL
REPORTS, AND (C) THE NEED TO HOLD FIRM ON COSTING REQUIRE-
MENTS. PANSA SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SYMPTOMS OF DIFFI-
CULTY ON POINT A, BUT DID EXPRESS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THAT
CAPITALS WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING WITH SUFFICIENTLY INFOR-
MATIVE COST DATA. HE SAID THAT THE EDITORIAL BOARD WAS
SCHEDULED TO MEET THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY AND INSTRUCTED
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CARACCILO (A MEMBER OF ASYG MUMFORD'S STAFF) TO TELL
MUMFORD TO RAISE WITH THE BOARD THE US POINTS AND TO REPORT
BACK TO HIM. CARACCILO REMARKED THAT THE FORMAT WAS AL-
READY AN ITEM ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA. ACTION REQUESTED:
SEE PARAGRAPH 7. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION DEFAD (LEGERE) DREW FULLY ON REF A IN EXPRES-

SING US INTEREST IN REPORTS OF TASK FORCES' DIFFICULTIES IN LAYING OUT RECOMMENDATIONS IN PROGRAMMATIC DETAIL. PANSA SEEMED REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC ON THAT SCORE, SAYING HE HAD DETECTED NO SYMPTOMS OF ANY SUCH DIFFICULTIES. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IF SIGNS OF TROUBLE APPEAR, THE EWG SHOULD TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION FORTHWITH. PANSA REMARKED THAT THE EDITORIAL BOARD WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY, AND HE INSTRUCTED CARACCIOLO, A MEMBER OF ASYG MUMFORD'S STAFF WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE DISCUSSION, TO TELL MUMFORD TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE BOARD AND TO REPORT BACK TO HIM. HE SAID THAT IF NECESSARY, HE OR THE EWG COULD ISSUE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TASK FORCES.

2. ON A RELATED MATTER, DEFAD REFERRED TO THE STATUS OF THE FORMAT, WITH ITS SPREAD SHEET, AS AN ISSUE THAT NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED. HE NOTED THAT THE US HAD MADE A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SPREAD SHEET, WHICH RELATED PRINCIPALLY TO THE WAY COST INFORMATION MIGHT BE DISPLAYED, AND REITERATED THAT THE US BELIEVED THAT USE OF THE COST SHEET SHOULD BE MANDATORY. CARACCIOLO SAID THAT THE FORMAT WAS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE EDITORIAL BOARD'S UPCOMING MEETING.

3. DEFAD REMARKED THAT THE US HAD DETECTED CERTAIN INDICATIONS OF A DESIRE BY SOME TO PULL BACK FROM THE COSTING DEMANDS OF THE LTDP AS REFLECTED IN THE COST SPREAD SHEET THAT THE IS HAD CIRCULATED. AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF INDIC

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CATIONS, HE CITED THE MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TF-2 (REINFORCEMENT) (REF B), THE LETTER FROM UK DEFAD PETERS (REF C), AND STAFF LEVEL VIEWS IN THE MC CALLING FOR EXPERTS TO VALIDATE THE COSTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE FORMAT AND SPREAD SHEET (REF F). PANSA REPLIED THAT THE PROBLEM LAY IN CAPITALS, NOT WITH TASK FORCES. HE FEARED THAT CAPITALS WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING WITH COST DATA, AND CITED THE DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING COSTS BEYOND THE NEAR TERM. DEFAD ACKNOWLEDGED THE DIFFICULTY, BUT COUNTERED THAT IT WAS FAR TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT REDUCING THE PRESSURE FOR THE FULLEST POSSIBLE COST INFORMATION. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS BETTER THAT THE TASK FORCES FALL SHORT OF AN EXACTING STANDARD THAN THAT THE EWG LOWER THIS STANDARD PREMATURELY. PANSA AGREED.

4. DEFAD LEFT A COPY OF HIS TALKING POINTS WITH PANSA AND PROVIDED CARACCIOLO A COPY TO GIVE TO MUMFORD.

5. COMMENT: DEFAD IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH MUMFORD ON JANUARY 3, 1978 (REF D), TO DISCUSS THE NOTION OF CATEGORIZATION OF TASK FORCE PROPOSALS. IN ADDITION, HE WILL DISCUSS COSTING, SINCE REGARDLESS OF HOW PROPOSALS ARE EVENTUALLY SORTED OUT, COSTING WILL BE A KEY FACTOR IN JUDGING THEIR FEASIBILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY. AS HE DID WITH PANSA,

DEFAD WILL REFER TO THE STRAWS IN THE WIND, ESPECIALLY FROM LONDON (REF C), AIMED AT DIMINISHING THE PROGRAMMATIC ASPECTS OF TASK FORCE REPORTS WITH THE ATTENDANT REQUIREMENT FOR FULL COST DATA, AND WILL STRESS THE NEED TO FRUSTRATE ANY ATTEMPTS TO WATER DOWN EXISTING GUIDANCE THAT EMPHASIZES EXACTING AND DETAILED COSTING. THE US MIL REP HAS SUCCEEDED IN QUASHING THE NEGATIVE STAFF LEVEL COMMENT ON COSTING (REF F), BUT THE ATTITUDE PROMPTING THE COMMENT MAY PERSIST. REGARDING UK DEFAD PETERS' LETTER (REF C), IF WASHINGTON HAS ANY COMMENTS, WE COULD PROVIDE THEM TO

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MUMFORD AT THE JANUARY 3 MEETING.

6. IN ADDITION, WE EXPECT TO DISCUSS THE SPREAD SHEET.

QUESTIONS WE ANTICIPATE FROM MUMFORD OR HIS STAFF ARE THE RATIONALE FOR SUMMARIZING COSTS BY FIVE-YEAR SEGMENTS AND HOW STRONGLY WASHINGTON FEELS ABOUT THIS PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE SPREAD SHEET. WE ASSUME THAT THE RATIONALE IS THAT NATO DEFENSE PLANNING IS NORMALLY DONE IN FIVE YEAR INCREMENTS, AND NOTE THAT REF E CHARACTERIZES THIS PROPOSED ADDITION AS "DESIRABLE". FOR OUR MEETING WITH MUMFORD, OR OTHER DISCUSSION OF THE SPREAD SHEET, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE RATIONALE FOR THAT PARTICULAR ADDITION AND TO KNOW HOW MUCH GIVE WE HAVE ON IT, IN CASE WE GET INTO SOME HORSE TRADING. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: BY OOB JANUARY 3, 1978: (A) ANY

COMMENT WASHINGTON WISHES US TO MAKE TO MUMFORD ON PETERS'

LETTER (PARAGRAPH 5 ABOVE); (B) GUIDANCE ON ADDING TO THE
SPREAD SHEET A REQUIREMENT TO SUMMARIZE COSTS BY FIVE-YEAR
INCREMENTS (PARAGRAPH 6 ABOVE). BENNETT

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